JFK 'Plot' Witness Arrested in Ohio

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COLUMBUS, Ohio, April 1 (UPI)—Gordon Novel, a former nightclub operator wanted as a material witness in the New Orleans investigation of the alleged Kennedy assassination plot, was taken into custody at nearby Gahanna today.

Novel was taken by four policemen to the Columbus police headquarters and kept behind closed doors at the detective bureau.

Novel's only comment arriving at the headquarters was that he stayed in this area "because it's a nice town to visit."

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A warrant was issued at New Orleans for his arrest after he left and unexpectedly turned up here March 22. He disappeared the next morning, saying he was going to Chicago. Several days later he briefly appeared in suburban Washington, D. C., and then vanished.

Dist. Atty. Jim Garrison wanted to question Novel about his knowledge of the slaying.

Novel has called Garrison's investigation "a fraud."

Novel said he stayed away from his native city because he did not wish to be questioned.

He had said earlier that he would return only if Garrison promised him "freedom from harassment and immunity from him."

He was picked up under the New Orleans subpoena and booked at the detective headquarters as a preliminary for his return to Louisiana.

Novel said he wished to remain outside his home state because he believed Garrison was conducting a "political, police state inquisition" in his efforts to find other persons involved in the Dallas, Tex., killing than Lee Oswald.